

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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NOFORN

DEPARTMENT FOR SNM,NEA/PAB, DEA FOR ENOM, IGIE, IGR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR PK
SUBJECT: RAID AT VILLAGE GANDAF (NWFP)

REF: A) ISLAMABAD 5540 B) ISLAMABAD 5579 C) ISLAMABAD 5761
D) LAHORE 783

1. ON JUNE 19, DCM AND SAIC TARALLO CALLED ON PAKISTAN NARCTICS

CONTROL BOARD CHAIRMAN RAOOF ALI TO CONVEY USG APPRECIATION FOR
GOP EFFORTS IN CLOSING DOWN HEROIN LAB AT GANDAF. DCM ALSO
COMMENDED CHAIRMAN FOR PROMPT ACTION ON SEIZURE OF LAB IN
LAHORE FOLLOWING GANDAF RAID (REFTEL D).

2. IN DISCUSSION OF GANDAF OPERATION, CHAIRMAN
EXPLAINED SEQUENCE OF EVENTS WHICH HAD RESULTED IN
SEIZURE OF LAB AND OPIUM IN ADJOINING HOUSE BUT
WHICH HAD PREVENTED SEIZURE OF LARGE STOCKS OF
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OPIUM DURING THE RAID. ACCORDING TO THE CHAIRMAN,
THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (DISTRICT MAGISTRATE) HAD
INTERVENED TO PREVENT SEIZURES OF OPIUM WHICH THE
DC ASSERTED WAS "LEGAL" OPIUM ON THE GROUNDS
THAT THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR IN NWFP HAD IN
WRITING LICENSED ALL POPPY PRODUCTION IN THE
SETTLED AREAS. THE CHAIRMAN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WHEN

MLA LT. GEN. FAZLE HAQ LEARNED THAT AN ADDITIONAL 10,000 ACRES OF UNLICENSED POPPIES WERE BEING CULTIVATED IN THE SETTLED AREAS, HE COUNTERMANDED EARLIER STRINGENT ORDERS OF HIS PREDECESSOR AND LEGITIMIZED ALL PRODUCTION IN SETTLED AREAS. THE CHAIRMAN ARGUED, HOWEVER, THAT THE OPIUM ITSELF WAS NOT LEGAL UNLESS IT WAS SOLD TO THE GOP AS REQUIRED BY LAW FOR ALL LICENSED PRODUCTION. THE CHAIRMAN ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE OWNERS AND CHEMISTS OF THE LAB ALONG WITH SEVERAL PEOPLE SUSPECTED OF STOCKPILING OPIUM IN THE VILLAGE WERE WARNED OF THE RAID AND HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY GONE INTO HIDING.

3. IN THE ENSUING DISCUSSION, THE CHAIRMAN INDICATED THAT THE PNCB WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD THIS YEAR TO INTERCEPT ILLICIT TRAFFIC OF THE LARGE AMOUNTS OF OPIUM RESULTING FROM THIS YEAR'S BUMPER CROP AND WOULD UNDERTAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO REIMPOSE THE OLD LIMITED LICENSING SYSTEM, COMBINED WITH VIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT, IN NWFP FOR NEXT YEAR'S CROP. THE DCM SAID THAT THE EMBASSY WAS PREPARED TO HELP IN ANY WAY THE CHAIRMAN THOUGHT USEFUL TO PURSUADE THE GOP TO IMPOSE STRICTER CONTROLS FOR POWPY CROP REDUCTION. THE CHAIRMAN AGREED TO KEEP US INFORMED IN THE MONTHS AHEAD ON THE PROGRESS OF HIS EFFORTS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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TO CRKSULT CLOSELY ON ADDITIONAL STEPS THE EMBASSY MIGHT TAKE.

4. COMMENT: WHILE THE RAID AT GANDAF WAS CLEARLY A SUCCESS IN KNOCKING OUT AN IMPORTANT HEROIN LAB, THE DC'S INTERVENTION TO BLOCK SEIZURE OF OPIUM AND ALLOW SUSPECTS TO ESCAPE ILLUSTRATES THE OPERATION PROBLEMS IN DEALING WITH THE PRODUCTION SIDE. BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN MOST RELUCTANT TO INTERFERE SIGNIFICANTLY WITH ILLICIT PRODUCTION AND FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS BOTH THE BHUTTO GOVERNMENT AND THE MLA HAVE RESORTED TO THE EXPEDIENT OF LEGITIMIZING WHATEVER HAS BEEN PRODUCED IN SETTLED AREAS. ANB ONCE THE CROP IS HARVESTED, THE AUTHORITIES ARE NOT PREPARED TO DEPRIVE THE GROWERS OF THE INCOME FROM SALES OF THE OPIUM. RAOOF ALI IS DETERMINED TO PRESS THE GOP TO BREAK THE CIRCLE, BUT WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT HIS CHANCES, PARTICULARLY IN THE PRESENT HIGHLY UNCERTAIN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT IN PAKISTAN.
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